AIS Research Newsletter

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Featured researcher: Amirhosein Moravejosharieh

There are three chapters in the story of my academic life:

1. living in my native Iran and completing my Bachelor of Computer Engineering

2. living in Malaysia and completing a Master of Computer Science and Information Technology

3. completing a PhD of Computer Science and Software Engineering in New Zealand and settling down here

Chapter one

In Iran, unlike many other countries, if a high school graduate plans to continue to a Bachelor's or even a higher degree, he/she must pass a very difficult university entrance exam.

Therefore, as a person who was and is always eager to learn, there was only one way ahead of me: to pass that exam. Fortunately, I passed the exam and got myself enrolled into a Bachelor of Computer Engineering four-year programme at Sadjad University of Mashhad. I officially started my research career while I was doing my final-year project. It was about the basis of designing and implementing Quantum Computers. It was an interesting topic; however, it required an intermediate level of knowledge about Quantum Mechanics which I had very limited knowledge about. My research journey had already begun. To cut a long story short, after about nine months of research, I finally put together a research thesis and successfully defended it. After completion of the Bachelor's degree, I had to decide either to continue to a Master's degree, which means passing another university entrance exam, or to join the military service and enlist for conscription. It was a very difficult decision to make. I decided to enlist for conscription so that I could apply for a passport afterwards to continue to a Master's degree in some other country. Meanwhile, I was employed part-time in a telecommunication company (computer network contractor) whilst completing the conscription. That way, I could save some money for my future academic plans.

Chapter two

Shortly after completion of conscription, I gained admission from the University of Malaya (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) to continue to the Master's degree in Computer Science and Information Technology. It was a great experience to live in a new country with a different language and lifestyle. My research life entered a whole other level during my Master's degree and even after that. I had developed some research skills all by myself during my Bachelor's mostly by following trial-and-error problem-solving methods. However, during my Master's degree, there was no room to deploy the same problem-solving method. As I was doing my Master's degree, I succeeded in enhancing my research capabilities to the level that helped me publish quite a number of articles.

"Dealing with students, understanding their different ways of thinking and learning new stuff … from them motivate me."

I was awarded the Master's degree after almost two years and was employed at the same department as a research assistant. My supervisor, Dr Rosli Salleh, and I came up with a project title which was a continuation of my Master's thesis. It was an interesting project in the sense that the outcome of it would help internet users to roam around the city while maintaining the connectivity (minimum disconnection time) using the next generation of IP (IPv6). We succeeded in receiving a research grant in order to enrol a few Master's and PhD students to complete their degrees on that project. As a research assistant, I had the opportunity of supervising those students and seeing them through fulfilling the requirement of that project. Being a research assistant and doing a project did not seem to be satisfying my curious mentality and research-thirsty mind. Therefore, I decided to enhance my research capabilities by continuing to a PhD.

Chapter three

After consulting many people, I decided to study a PhD in the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. Studying a PhD was a great experience: on the one hand, living in a new country and meeting new people (finally English-speaking ones) was quite interesting, and on the other hand, the PhD itself was very different from what I had experienced before. My PhD thesis was about creating a system that enables patients to freely roam around while carrying wireless sensors. These wireless sensors were responsible for monitoring human vital signs and transmitting them to professionals. Clearly, this information must be reliable for medical doctors to prescribe accordingly. Unfortunately, with our current technology this information does not show an acceptable level of reliability due to experiencing frequency interference with other technologies such as WiFi. Obviously, this was a challenge for me and thus it caught my attention. Therefore, I began the PhD journey conducting research on that topic. If you asked me about the PhD and its difficulty level, I would say "it is like living in heaven and hell at the same time". Some days you think you have a breakthrough and the next day you realise that it was all a mirage. It has its ups and downs. There are two things that helped me get through my PhD: being patient and trying to be productive as much as possible every day. Eventually, I succeeded in defending my thesis after three years and was awarded a PhD degree. The main outcome of these three years was publishing quite a number of articles that satisfied my enthusiastic mind to conduct research and fulfilled my desire to contribute to Computer Science.

Being a lecturer was always my dream job. Dealing with students, understanding their different ways of thinking and learning new stuff (both academic and non-academic) from them motivate me to keep on following that dream at Auckland Institute of Studies as an Information Technology lecturer.
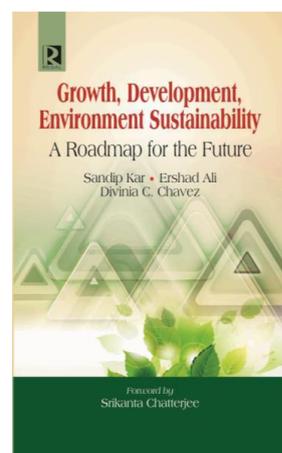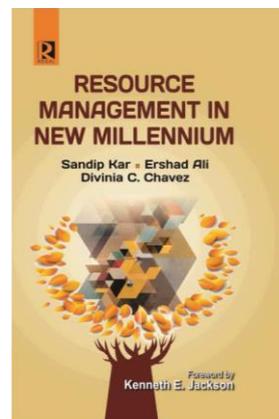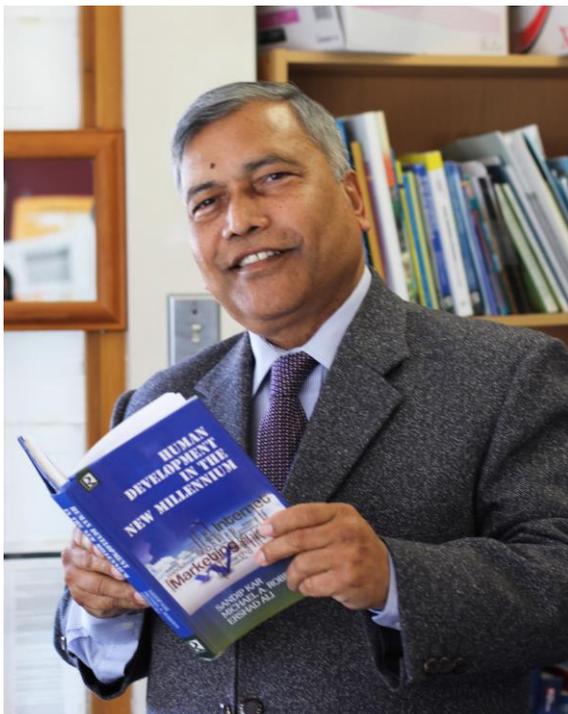
2017 Research Awards

Since 2013, AIS has conducted an annual Research Award scheme, to acknowledge those staff who have produced good research and publications over the previous year (July to June). There are two categories: Established Researcher, for those with PBRF rankings or equivalent, and Emerging Researcher, for newer staff.

We congratulate the following staff who have won the 2017 Research Awards.

The Established Researcher award goes to Dr Ershad Ali. Ershad was the co-editor of three books: *Resource Management in the New Millennium*; *Growth, Development, and*
Environmental Sustainability; and *Technology, Sustainability and Managing Development in Developing Countries*, in addition to co-authoring several chapters in those books. He also authored and co-authored articles in the *Journal of Emerging Economies and Islamic Research*, the *Journal of Organisational Culture, Communications and Conflict*, the *Asian Journal of Environment Behaviour Studies*, the *Journal of International Business, Economics and Entrepreneurship*, and the *Journal of Wealth Management and Financial Planning*. Ershad also gave two keynote conference papers.

The Emerging Researcher award goes to Dr Nick Towner. Nick had articles published in the *Tourism Planning and Development* journal, the *Journal of Pacific Studies*, and the *Journal of Sport and Tourism*. He also helped organise, and gave two joint presentations at, the "Whales in a Changing Ocean" conference jointly organised by AIS in Tonga, in addition to presentations at the Council for Australasian Tourism and Hospitality Education (CAUTHE) and New Zealand Tourism and Hospitality Research conferences.

Honourable mentions go to three staff.

Dr Semisi Taumoepeau published articles in the *New Zealand Journal of Educational Studies*, as well as AIS's *Online Journal of International Education*. Semisi was a prime organiser of the "Whales in a Changing Ocean" conference, at which he gave joint presentations, as well as at the Vaka Pasifika Education, CAUTHE and New Zealand Tourism and Hospitality Research conferences.

Dr Leonie Menzies gave presentations on her research on tourism in South Africa at the Annual Ecohealth and Wellbeing (South Africa) and CAUTHE conferences.

Sunil Lakhani had a joint article "Strategies during recessionary times" published in the *Industrial Management* journal.

Conferences

2-4 October 2017
CITRENZ conference
"Agile and industry-ready IT education"
EIT, Hawke's Bay
conference.citrenz.ac.nz

11 -12 November 2017
Development of Research in Social Sciences, Humanities, Business and Management Studies

"Exploring and nurturing research excellence"
Rydges on Swanston, Melbourne
anissh.com/conferences/drshbm-nov-2017

20 – 21 November 2017
International Business Research Conference
Rendezvous Hotel, Melbourne
www.austconfo.com

23-25 November 2017
Third East-West Dialogue on Tourism and the Chinese Dream
Marriott Hotel, Gold Coast
www.tourismchinesedreamconference2017.com.au

27-29 November 2017
ALANZ / ALAA / ALTAANZ conference
"Applied Linguistics in the new millennium: Multiple theories, pathways and practices"
AUT University
www.alanz.ac.nz

30 November – 2 December 2016
ATLAANZ conference
"Build and rebuild: Responding to new realities"
Lincoln University
www.facebook.com/ATLAANZ/

6-8 December 2017
Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management
RMIT, Melbourne
www.anzam.org/events/types/events-conference

15 – 16 January 2018
CRIE (Centre for Research in International Education) international conference
"Online learning in international education"
Auckland Institute of Studies
crie.org.nz/conferences.htm

5-8 February 2018
CAUTHE Annual Conference
"Get smart: Paradoxes and possibilities"
University of Newcastle, Australia
www.facebook.com/CAUTHE2018

5 – 7 October 2018
CLESOL (Community Languages and ESOL) conference
"Transforming our landscape"
Christ's College, Christchurch
www.clesol2018.org.nz

Staff outputs

Addison, A., Spring, J., Taumoepeau, S. & **Towner, N.** (2017). Community participation in the Vava'u whale watching industry: A local perspective. Paper presented at the Plenary session of the *Whales in a changing ocean* conference, Nuku'alofa, Tonga (4-6 April).

Addison, A., Spring, J., Taumoepeau, S. & **Towner, N.** (2017). Training gaps in the Tonga whale watch industry. Paper presented at the Plenary session of the *Whales in a changing ocean* conference, Nuku'alofa, Tonga (4-6 April).

Ali, E. & Rahman, S. M. M. (2017). Assessing corporate social responsibility activities on customer satisfaction: A study on commercial banks in Bangladesh**.** *Journal of Wealth Management and Financial Planning, 4*, 31-44. URL: mfpc.org.my/wp-content/uploads/images/JWMFP/2017/31-44_Original%20Research_Paper%203_Accessing%20CSR%20Activities.pdf

Ali, E. (15 June, 2017). New Zealand: Higher study destination. *The Daily Observer*, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Al-Shamaa, S., Brown, A. & Pranish, T. (2017). A "Good referencing" test and other anti-plagiarism measures. Presentation at the Association of Tertiary Learning Advisors (ATLAANZ) hui, University of Waikato, 30 June.

Cabiling, D. L., Bermudez, N. L., San Pedro, L. S. L., & Zang, X. (2017). *Environmental management.* Manila, Philippines: Unlimited Books.

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Hennessy, J., Smythe, E., Abbott, M., & Hughes, F. (2017). Mental Health Support Workers: An evolving workforce. In M. Smith & A. Jury (Eds.), *Workforce development theory and practice in the mental health sector* (pp. 200-221): Hershey PA: Information Science Reference.

Kushwaha S. & **Al-Shamaa, S.** (2016). A study on the impact of culture shock on Asian students in Auckland, New Zealand. *Research Guru: Online Journal of Multidisciplinary Subjects, 10*(3).

Smythe, E., **Hennessy, J**., Abbott, M., & Hughes, F. (2017). Do professional boundaries limit trust? *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*. doi:10.1111/inm.12319

Subramaniam, G., Nabilah, N. H. B. K. & **Ali, E.** (2017). Family responsibilities, friendly family policies and intention to work among married women in Malaysia: A logistic regression analysis. Paper presented at the NZ Economists Association Annual International conference, Victoria University of Wellington, 11-12 July.

Taumoepeau, S., Towner, N., & Losekoot, E. (2017). Low-cost carriers in Oceania, Pacific: Challenges and opportunities. *Journal of Air Transport Management*, *65*, 40-42.

Towner, N., Taumoepeau, S. Lal, B. & Pranish. T. (2017). Intervention and outcomes for Pasifika students: A New Zealand private tertiary education provider (PTE) case study. *New Zealand Journal of Educational Studies*, (52), 1-22. DOI 10.1007/s40841-017-0081-4

About Auckland Institute of Studies ...

Auckland Institute of Studies is a unique tertiary institution with a distinctive international focus. Since its inception, this developing institute has attracted students and staff from countries around the world and has now developed a number of close relationships with leading educational institutions internationally.

Our programmes
Master of Business Administration
Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration
Postgraduate Certificate in Business Administration

Graduate Diploma in Business
Bachelor of Business

Graduate Diploma in Information Technology
Bachelor of Information Technology

Graduate Diploma in Tourism Management
Bachelor of Tourism Management
New Zealand Diploma in Tourism and Travel (Level 6)
New Zealand Diploma in Tourism and Travel (Level 5)

Graduate Diploma in Hospitality Management
Bachelor of Hospitality Management
New Zealand Diploma in Hospitality Management (Level 6)
New Zealand Diploma in Hospitality Management (Level 5)
Licence Controller Training (LCQ) (Level 4)
New Zealand Certificate in Food and Beverage Service (Café Services) (Level 3)
Barista Skills Certificate (Level 3)
Food Safety Certificate (Level 3)

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